

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action, dated March 11, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-34, 37, 40-43 and 46, and has objected to claims 35, 36, 38, 39, 44, 45, 47 and 49. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's statement that claims 35, 36, 38, 39, 44, 45, 47 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the present amendment, claims 32, 34-35, 37-39, 41, 43-44 and 46-48 have been cancelled, claims 1, 13, 17, 31, 33, 36, 40, 42 and 45 have been amended, and new claims 49-69 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 1-31, 33, 36, 40, 42, 45 and 49-69 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-31, 33, 36, 40, 42, 45 and 49-69 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

**A. Rejection of Claims 1-34, 37, 40-43 and 46 under 35 USC § 103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-34, 37, 40-43 and 46 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs, et al. (USPN 5,778,338) (hereinafter "Jacobs") in view of Gersho, et al. (hereinafter "Gersho"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has made the following amendments.

Applicant has amended claim 31 to include all of the limitations of original claim 31 and original claim 35 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 33 which recites "transmitting said bits to a decoding system." Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 35 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 31, as amended, should be allowed.

Further, new claim 62 includes all of the limitations of original claim 31 and original claim 36 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 33 which recites

“transmitting said bits to a decoding system.” Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 36 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 61 should be allowed.

Also, new claim 63 includes all of the limitations of original claim 31 and original claim 38 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 33 which recites “transmitting said bits to a decoding system.” Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 38 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 63 and its dependent claim 64 should be allowed

In addition, new claim 65 includes all of the limitations of original claim 31 and original claim 39 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 33 which recites “transmitting said bits to a decoding system.” Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 39 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 65 should be allowed.

Applicant has amended claim 40 to include all of the limitations of original claim 40 and original claim 44 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 42 which recites “a transmitter configured to transmit said bits to a decoding system.” Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 44 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 40, as amended, should be allowed.

Further, new claim 66 includes all of the limitations of original claim 40 and original claim 45 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 42 which recites “a transmitter configured to transmit said bits to a decoding system.” Applicant respectfully

submits that because the Examiner had found claim 45 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 66 should be allowed.

Also, new claim 67 includes all of the limitations of original claim 40 and original claim 47 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 42 which recites "a transmitter configured to transmit said bits to a decoding system." Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 47 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 67 and its dependent claim 68 should be allowed.

In addition, new claim 69 includes all of the limitations of original claim 40 and original claim 48 and its intervening claims, prior to previous amendment, except claim 42 which recites "a transmitter configured to transmit said bits to a decoding system." Applicant respectfully submits that because the Examiner had found claim 48 in condition for allowance, in the previous office action, if rewritten in independent form; therefore, claim 69 should be allowed.

Regarding claim 1, by the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 35. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 and 49 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 35 has been found allowable.

In addition, new claim 50 includes all of the limitations of claim 1, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 36. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 50 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 36 has been found allowable.

Further, new claim 51 includes all of the limitations of claim 1, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 38. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 51 and its dependent claim 52 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 38 has been found allowable.

Also, new claim 53 includes all of the limitations of claim 1, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 39. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 53 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 39 has been found allowable.

Regarding claim 13, by the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 13 to include all of the limitations of claim 35. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-16 and 54 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 35 has been found allowable.

In addition, new claim 55 includes all of the limitations of claim 13, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 36. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 55 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 36 has been found allowable.

Further, new claim 56 includes all of the limitations of claim 13, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 38. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 56 and its dependent claim 57 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 38 has been found allowable.

Also, new claim 58 includes all of the limitations of claim 13, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 39. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits

that claim 58 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 39 has been found allowable.

Regarding claim 17, by the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 17 to include all of the limitations of claim 35. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 and its dependent claims 18-30 and 59 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 35 has been found allowable.

In addition, new claim 60 includes all of the limitations of claim 17, prior to present amendment, and all of the limitations of claim 36. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 60 and its dependent claim 61 should be allowed at least for similar reasons that claim 36 has been found allowable.

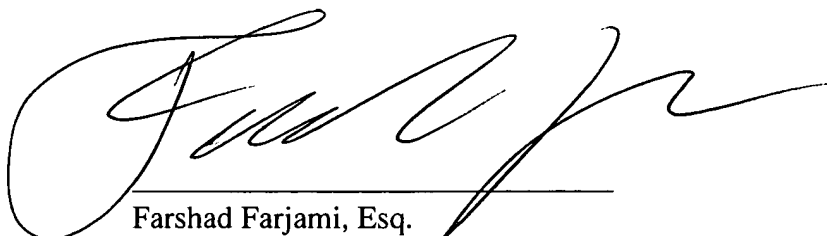
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B. Conclusion

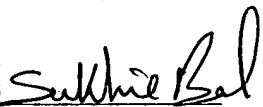

For all the foregoing reasons, an early allowance of claims 1-31, 33, 36, 40, 42, 45 and 49-69 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;  
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP



Farshad Farjami, Esq.  
Reg. No. 41,014

Farshad Farjami, Esq.  
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP  
26522 La Alameda Ave., Suite 360  
Mission Viejo, California 92691  
Telephone: (949) 282-1000  
Facsimile: (949) 282-1002

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